

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A modified gp120 polypeptide comprising portions of at least two conserved regions of an envelope protein selected from a primate lentivirus, wherein at least two of the four glycosylation sites proximal to the CD4 binding site or ~~chemokine~~ CCR5 or CXCR4 chemokine receptor binding site have been altered, wherein the alteration prevents glycosylation at said sites, and wherein the modified polypeptide maintains the overall 3-dimensional structure of a discontinuous conserved epitope of the wild-type gp120.

2. (Original) The modified gp120 polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the discontinuous conserved epitope is a CD4bs epitope or a CD4i epitope.

*Amended* 3. (Original) The modified gp120 polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the gp120 protein is selected from the group consisting of HIV-1, HIV-2 and SW.

4. (Currently Amended) The modified gp120 polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the gp120 protein is HIV-1 and the glycosylation sites are selected from the group of amino acids that correspond to positions 197, 276, 301 and 386 of HIV-1 strain HXBc2.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The modified gp120 polypeptide of claim 2 4, wherein the gp120 polypeptide further contains at least one of the following changes relative to the wild-type to gp120 protein:

- (a) introduction of disulfide bonds;
- (b) filling a cavity of the gp120 protein with hydrophobic amino acid residues;
- (c) introducing a Pro residue at a defined turn structure; or
- (d) increasing the hydrophobicity across the interface between the gp120 domains.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

*Amended*

14. (Currently Amended) The modified gp120 polypeptide of claim 1, 4, ~~5~~ or 6, wherein the polypeptide further contains at least one pan-reactive T-cell helper epitopes.

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15. (New) The modified gp120 polypeptide of claims 4 or 6, wherein one of the glycosylation sites that have been altered corresponds to position 301 of HIV-1 strain HXBc2.

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16. (New) The modified gp120 polypeptide of claims 4 or 6, wherein all four of the glycosylation sites have been altered.

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